



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Case No. 93,509)

PATENT

In the Application of:

Amara and Arriza

Serial No. 08/140,729

Filed: October 20, 1993

For: AMINO ACID TRANSPORTERS
AND USES

Before the Examiner:
L. Hobbs

Group Art Unit: 1814

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement, mailed July 24, 1995, Applicants elect to prosecute Claims 3, 9, 13 and 14, designated Group II in the Restriction Requirement, with traverse.

Applicants traverse the instant restriction requirement as follows. First, Applicants respectfully submit that, due to the related nature of the amino acid transporters disclosed in this application, it would pose no undue hardship on the Office to search the claims of Groups I, II, III and IX together (Claims 2-4, 9-16, 24, and 26-28). This is evidenced by the Restriction Requirement itself, which classifies each set of claims designated Groups I-III and Group IX as Class 435, subclass 69.1. Applicants respectfully submit that the ease of this search is particularly relevant with regard to the ability to search online databases of nucleic acid sequences, as claimed herein. As all major Patent Offices in the world (EPO, JPO and US PTO, as well as the International Searching Authority of WIPO) require all applications disclosing nucleic acid sequences to supply computer-readable copies of Sequence Listings, Applicants respectfully submit that the relevant patent-specific, as well as scientific, databases exist and are accessible. Applicants respectfully submit that avoiding references related to the invention claimed in Groups I, II, III and IX will pose just as significant a burden on the Examiner as actively searching for art related to these claims.

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